

The BAYONET

Vol. 2017, No 3

Augusta Military Academy Alumni Foundation, Inc. Newsletter

Fall 2017



The big barracks was home for nearly every person reading this newsletter. Whether you came to AMA for one year or 10 years, (yes, Harry Rubens and Nick Syropolous both attended AMA for 10 years!) this was your home for 9 months of the year.

We learned discipline here. We learned life skills here. We learned how to interact with people here. We learned to not be late here. We learned courtesy for elders here. We grew up here. Augusta Military Academy was our life. And although the sight of the Barracks and other buildings on campus bring back memories, some good, some not so good, if you're reading this you have survived it all, and I believe we are all better people for it. I know I am.

As I remember back on my experiences at AMA, I'm glad I went there. But at the time, I wasn't so sure. We lived in Norway at the time, and I was not "dropped off at the front arch" like so many of you were. My parents put me on a plane in Stavanger, Norway and basically said, "see you next summer."

I remember arriving from Weyers Cave airport in that old stations wagon used to shuttle kids to all the schools. I remember getting there a few days early, and so I had only the clothes on my back and the few things I brought with me in a suitcase. I remember **Steve Trent, '70**, taking this naive forlorn kid to the Fort and into Staunton to buy everything I would need.

I remember my first run around the bowl because I was late for formation. I remember my first crusty old aspirin in Col. Hoovers Algebra class because I coughed. I remember putting on the gloves with my first year roommate, and he beat the snot out of me because I was a little jerk and had it coming. I remember push ups. OMG, do I remember push ups. I remember trying to eat a square meal without spilling any food. I remember being at the end of the table when the food bowls were nearly empty when they came my way. Benny the barber! Kiwi Polish and Brasso!

But I also remember the PX. Man, Snickers and Mountain Dew, it just did not get any better than that! (WHAT'S LEFT page 11)

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria devastate the gulf coast, Florida and the Eastern Caribbean, especially Puerto Rico. **Doug Pennock, '72**, reports from his home in San Juan. Read the full report on **page 16**.



Doug and Trudy's tree landed in their swimming pool

Ladies of AMA

is a new feature of The Bayonet. Contributing writer Nancy Botcheller begins the series, appropriately enough, by interviewing Linda Roller Livick. The feature will continue in future Bayonets, featuring other Ladies who have had a significant impact on AMA and it's cadets. Our first installment begins on **page 10**.

Celebration of Life

services were held for **Jim Hash, '72**, in the barracks courtyard on the AMA campus Saturday September 30. Access to the courtyard by the Church allowed Jim's wishes to have his ashes spread over the grass in front of his room to be fulfilled. See story on **page 18**.



Augusta Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.

Dear Brothers & Friends,

Thank you for making Reunion 2017 a success.

Again, we were in the black after all expenses for the Reunion were accounted for, thus producing operational funds for our museum. However, we still have a problem recruiting volunteers to man the museum on weekends. It is becoming more difficult to keep the doors open on Saturday and Sunday. We too often call on folks living in the local area to take up the slack. Those of us that live within a 200-mile radius of Fort Defiance need to pitch in one weekend a year.

Another issue that many of you are interested in is the general level of service of the Holiday Inn. **Crysta Stephenson** and I had a sit down with the Holiday Inn management after the reunion and rectified several issues. Reunion 2018 will once again be held at the Holiday Inn. We also investigated another location for the 2019 reunion. All of this will be discussed at our annual meeting during Reunion 2018. Additionally, **Frank Williamson, '60**, has agreed to assist in negotiating prices for Reunion 2019 on room rates if we have a change of venue.

In September a memorial service was held for **Jim Hash, '72**, at AMA. The reason I am mentioning this is that it was Jim's wish to have his ashes spread in the courtyard of Big Barracks. **Garry Granger, '71** officiated the ceremony

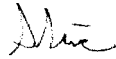
and he did a first-class job. I am also mentioning this to let everyone know that if they have a similar request we can get permission for the request to be honored.

I don't want to go into detail on the finance side of our ongoing operations since I am sure you will hear from the Foundation on this subject. The only thing I will say if you are not donating is please do so. A great way to do it is to join the **300 club** and donate \$50.00 a month by credit card.

At this time, we have over 50 members. Even though it is not our largest source of income it is making a difference. You will also receive an annual fund-raising pamphlet in the mail soon. Please contribute to this endeavor, whatever you are able. We are focused on the longevity of our museum. I know we all want to do whatever we can to maintain the museum.

In closing, I hope everyone is doing well. Some of our brothers have had a difficult time in Puerto Rico as well as Florida and Texas. We can be thankful that they are safe.

My best to all of you,


Stephen G. Trent '70



Left: Steve Trent, '70, speaks at Jim Hash's Ceremony of Life. Looking on are, left to right, Frank Williamson, '60, Bruce Hemp, Stuart Hall, Jack White, '69, Tom Del Valle, '73, and Crysta Stephenson, Museum Executive Director.
Right: The foundation and Association held board meetings on September 30.



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Newsletter of the Augusta Military Academy
Alumni Foundation, Inc.
PO BOX 100

Fort Defiance, VA 24437-0100

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Please provide us with your 9-digit zip code! The Bayonet welcomes information and articles for or about AMA alumni. Share the news of promotions, awards, retirement, births, marriages, deaths, etc. Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi and preferably in TIFF format. Printed color photos are also welcome.

Mail or email information to:

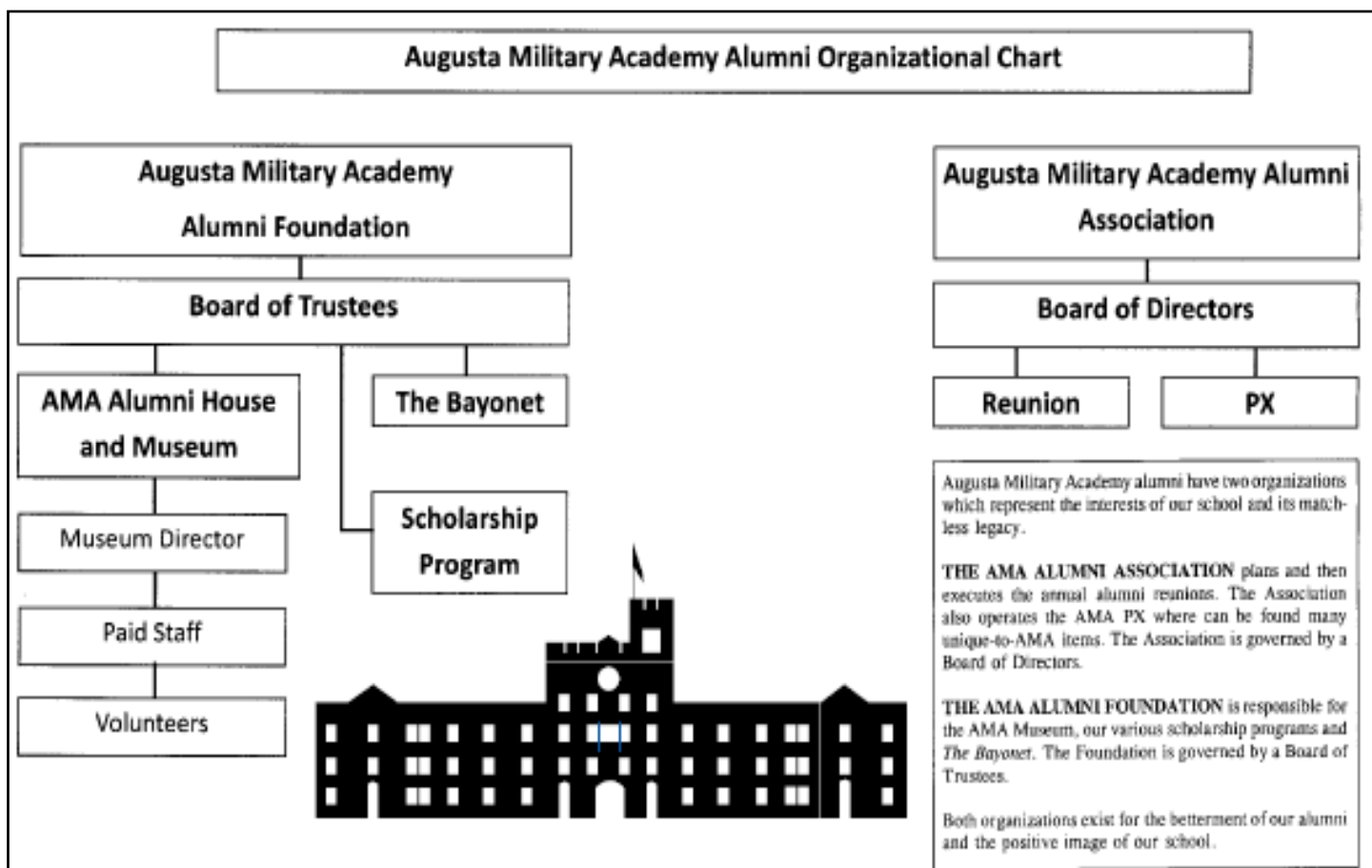
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Foundation Board meeting notes September 30, 2017

Eight of the nine trustees were present for the meeting, as well as Steve Trent, Association President, and five other alumni guests. Museum Executive Director Crysta Stephenson and museum full time volunteer Ben Zinkhan, '60, were also present.

Chairman Blaine Clarke, '72, read the mission statement of the Foundation as follows:

"To preserve the traditions of the Augusta Military Academy and to honor the memory of the life and times of its alumni, faculty, staff, and supporting families through the AMA Museum, the Legacy Scholarship and the publication of The Bayonet."

Ben Zinkhan, '60, expressed his concern for the need for additional volunteers to man the museum on the weekends. It was discussed that all trustees should step up and volunteer at the museum at least one day per year. Currently four trustees do volunteer at the museum. Following that example, if every alumnus within 200 miles of the museum could step up to volunteer one day per year, the crisis could be averted. Crysta Stephenson mentioned the possibility that the museum may have to cut back being open to the public from 6 days per week to just 5 unless the volunteer situation improves.

B.J. d'Orsay, '70, commented on what fun it was to actually give tours, and talk about all the good and bad times we all had at the school. It is not necessary to memorize a tour script of information about each artifact in the museum. Most visitors are more interested in our personal stories than anything else.

Our finances are looking slightly better than in the past few years, but donations are still just barely paying the bills. We are striving towards the level of giving where we can begin to set some aside for the future.

Victor Gomez, '69, is asking all AMA alumni artists (and photographers) to consider hanging their framed art or photographs at the Shenandoah Valley Art Center in Waynesboro, where he volunteers. A price can be attached to the piece. When sold, AMA can receive 80% of the sales price. This might be an easy way to increase public awareness of AMA's heritage and our museum. If you are interested in this, contact Victor directly at victorgomez7@gmail.com.

Our museum staff and volunteers have created a traveling exhibit for our museum, which is being made available to local schools and organizations. We are reaching out to our local community with the history of our school. **See photo on page 15.**

Beginning at the 2017 Reunion, lists of alumni whose whereabouts are unknown have been researched in the attempt to bring more cadets into the fold. Interns Kirsten Lambert and Alexandra Harter searched for lost alumni from the 1980's and found contact information for 180 of them. Postcards were sent asking that the former cadets reply to the museum and confirm that they did indeed attend AMA and wanted to stay in touch. We received 11 confirmations back. That may not sound like a lot, but is a greater than 5% success rate, which is very high for this type of endeavor. Kudos to our interns for an outstanding job.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held January 27, 2018 at AMA.

Our meeting adjourned for lunch and top attend the Ceremony of Life for **Jim Hash, '72**.

Board meetings are begun with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Jack White, '69, Rod Willey, '72, Ed Rogerville, '76, and Phil Bentley, '83 bow as Gordon Metz, '68, Board Chaplain, leads us in opening prayer.



Notes from our readers ...



Hi Bob,

See you made another reunion. Have you ever missed one? Come Sept. it will be 70 years since I first showed at AMA. Roller was still a Colonel, Hover a Major, Savage a Captain and Chapman was looking down PA coal mines for football players. And a lot of us roomed three to a room.

I sold my place in FL. My daughter in San Francisco wanted to buy a house in the city. As you know they are a bit pricey there and she needed some help. This is the one who came back with me to receive her scholarship. So now I divide my time between SF and Denver. She just got her PHD, so I guess the award was worth it. Give you a call when I get back to the city.

John M. Core, '51 [john_core@msn.com]

As most of you know, I've been battling cancer since 2013. In 2014 I had chemo and radiation to my neck and throat area. Because of this my esophagus shrunk in size. It's been hard to swallow food ever since. Update!!! On October 3d I will under go minor surgery to stretch my esophagus back to it's original size at the VA hospital in Memphis. I will be put out, so it does have the dangers of a regular surgery. This is an outpatient procedure, so no Hospital stay. Prayers are appreciated. Heal from this and on to the next surgery !!!

Bob Walker, '75 [rebelrider56@gmail.com]

Greetings,

My name is Brett Matthew Jackson and I attended AMA during the last 3 years it was in operation.

I was a Sophomore when the school closed and still remember the call I received: heartbreaking.

I was on the wrestling team, soccer team, the Roller Rifle Drill Team, and an Honor Student.

I ended up graduating from The Citadel, The Military College of SC with a BS in Civil Engineering. I am currently a Professional Engineer working for the USDOT doing the things you hear about most in the news lately: toll roads, Public Private Partnerships, and Major Projects.

I remember my parents were photographers, and they took the class pictures of all the cadets the last year I attended. So if you have yearbook pictures of all of the cadets the last year, my mother actually took them.

I look forward to hearing more about the museum and any way I can help.

Some random names I remember:

- Arrington
- Chris Meeks
- Benevente

Sincerely,

Brett M. Jackson, class of '87 that never quite got there.....

[bmjackson102@gmail.com]

[editor's note: Brett was found by Kristen, our museum intern, during our push to locate lost alumni]

Thank you guys for keeping the former cadets in contact. I received your card and I would like to know on how I can help AMA.

I started with AMA in the summer of 1975. After being a "scab" walking the line for six months...I excelled thanks to Col. Hoover..LT Steelman...etc with all of the other faculty.

In 1975 (with vietnam) over with..I stayed on for another 5 years/. LOVED every day.

Please let me know how I can contribute to the Alumni. Thank you!

Sincerely,

1st LT Richard Sandford, '80

"F" Company Commader

1975-1980

[californiaguy101@yahoo.com]

[editor's note: Richard is another lost alumnus found by our intern Kristen]

Dear Bob,

A sadness your message, but there's a time for everything and you've done more than any, Colonel (as he was to us) Roller included, could have asked or expected. It is extraordinary how you managed, almost single-handedly, to sustain for decades the spirit that animated us. There was something special about AMA and each of us took away from that place lessons that served us, and I would like to think, our country, well.

More personally, it was a pleasure to renew an old friendship after the passage of so much time. I was always glad to see you, to talk about things that matter, almost as if we had just wandered back from the mess hall, perhaps after a Sunday breakfast.

To catch you up: we have sold our house in Stonington (CT) and have moved to a retirement community outside Philadelphia (the Quakers, true perhaps to some interpretation of their creed, do NOT tax pensions). You'll find our coordinates below.

Take good care of yourself, Robert, and God bless,

Jock

Ambassador John W. Shirley (ret.)

1400 Waverly Road (Villa 1)

Gladwyne, PA 19035

610-645-4878

jockshirley@aol.com

Ben shines on as head Museum volunteer and docent

Ben Zinkhan, '60, has been the docent most visitors see at the AMA Museum. His love for AMA is clearly evident in the devotion he has lavished upon the museum.

Clearly, the museum would not be where it is today without the attention Ben gives to it every day.

Ben volunteers at the museum the four days of each week, leaving the museum in the capable hands of other volunteers over each weekend.

He loves his "job." There is no other way to put it. And it shows in the comments visitors return to the museum after a tour.



Ben guides a tour of local school children, explaining life at AMA over the years and answering their many questions.

Reverend Thomas W. Corbell, '57, writes:

Dear Ben,

On May 30, 2017, my wife Anne and I drove to AMA and toured the museum. You met us and were so helpful and kind. I wanted to see the yearbooks that my brothers and I were in ... What AMA offered me was a sense of family, stability and order that I needed during those three formative years while I was a cadet. I will forever be grateful for my three years at AMA. I am also impressed with the obvious pride and joy you exude as you help people remember their years at AMA. I felt like I had gained a brother. My prayer is that in the future the museum can be preserved regardless of who

purchases the property. It is a priceless part of history. Your work helps make that truth live on!

A photo of Tom and his wife Anne during their visit to the Museum appears on page 6.

Ben has made many friends over the years but perhaps none are as special as his new friendship with Amanda Elliott and her husband, Devin. Their friendship continues to grow, as Ben traveled in September to West Virginia to see Amanda and Devin in Grafton.

I was asked to tell the story about how I met Ben Zinkhan and the friendship we share. I thought about this a lot and realized I have a lot I could say but where to start? So I figured it would be best to start at the beginning. My husband and I had been dating almost a year when we decided to travel to VA Beach in Sept of 2015 to visit some of my family. We live in Grafton, West Virginia and started the trip at 5:30am on a Thursday morning so we could travel at our leisure and stop at places like the about 10 am when AMA. When we we met Ben. I would become ours. He gave us full of stories and We talked and where we were about him when young man. Before him to the world a selfie together was some one I As we left he told



AMA Museum. It was we saw the signs for arrived at the facility had no idea that he a forever friend of a wonderful tour amazing information. talked about life, from, and stories he attended AMA as a we left I introduced of selfies as we took because I knew this wanted to remember. us if we were ever in

the area again to stop back and see him at the AMA, and we told him we would.

In April of 2017 my husband and I once again found our self in the area on our way to Zion Crossroads, VA for a weekend getaway. As we were headed home we again stopped by the AMA. Ben wasn't there but I left him a note with our names and number, not sure that he would remember us. Later that week he called and I was thrilled to hear from him and that he remembered us! From that point on we have been in contact through emails, phone calls, and facebook. I am an EMT. After a grueling 36 hour shift on the ambulance I came home to a package at the front door. As I sat down with my husband we opened the box to find that Ben sent us a care package that included some AMA items including a cook book. (I think he's trying to tell me to feed my husband more hahahaha). I cried at the gesture. To know that this man has met us and taken us into his heart just as we have him is amazing. My husband and I are blessed. We have found some one who not only is an amazing person, but enhances our lives by being in it.

Any one who meets Ben or takes one of his tours is blessed for his soul is kind, heart is caring, and his personality is vibrant. I know my husband and I are blessed. Thank you Ben for your service, all you do for us, your community, and enhancing everyone's lives that you come into contact with!

We Love You!

Amanda and Devin Jamison

Museum visitors



Tom Corbell '57 and wife, Anne stopped in at the AMA Museum this summer as they were traveling through. Tom went down memory lane and took a lot of pictures. He looked at The Recalls for pictures of himself and his two brothers that also attended.



Jack Moll, '64, was travelling from Florida to Pennsylvania when he stopped in to visit The AMA Museum. This was his first time back since his cadet days.



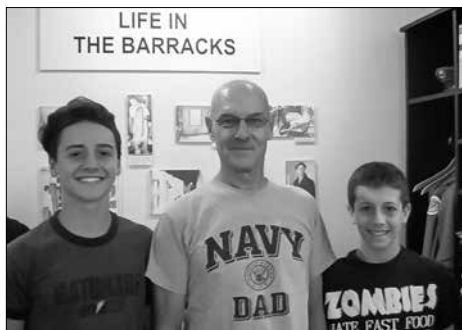
Frank, '65 and **Joannel Gum** were travelling from Delaware to North Carolina to visit family when they dropped in at The AMA Museum this summer. Frank was at AMA for two years and this was his first time back in 15 years.



Brothers **Jay Merritt** and **Greg Merritt** visited the museum recently. Jay was from the Class of 1975 and Greg was in the Class of 1972.



John Elliott '63 and his wife visited the museum this summer. This was his first time back to the AMA grounds since his last day of school. He remarked to our volunteer Ben Zinkhan, "Oh what memories!"



Joe Bamberger, '71 packed grandsons Nestor and Adrian in the car and made a trip to The AMA Museum. This was Joe's first time back since his time as a cadet at AMA. He was in Harrisonburg visiting his daughter.



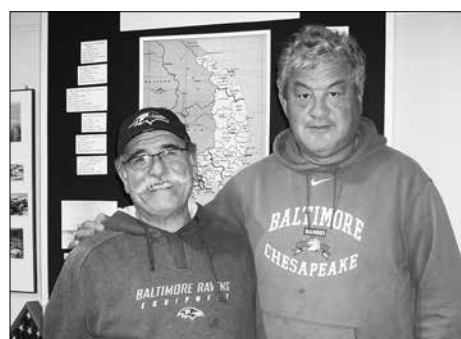
Victor, '69 and **Evelyn Gomez** visit with **Jimmy Rochelle, '68** and his wife **Erica** over breakfast at Verona's favorite breakfast spot, Armstrongs. Jimmy and Erica traveled from Springdale, Arkansas for the museum visit. Jimmy spent two years ('66 & '67) in Band Co. at AMA.



Sam Nace, '74, visited The AMA Museum this year. It was his first time back on campus in 40 plus years. He said he had a great time reliving old memories during the museum visit. He was originally from Mt. Sidney but now lives in New Jersey.



Julius Boles, '83 of Cascade, Va., brought his son, Matthew, to The AMA Museum this summer to show him where Dad went to school.



Alumnus extraordinaire **Nick Syropoulos '69** of Baltimore, Md., and his friend, **Ben Whanekura**, stopped in for a short visit at The AMA Museum after visiting Mark Femrite '70 in Riner, Va.



Although a sad occasion brought him back to his hometown of Staunton, we were happy to see **Ralph Veney, '78**, nonetheless. He was in the area for his mother's funeral and stopped by the museum on his way home.

Returning for the first time since graduation in 1968, **Gary and Cassandra Dove** toured the museum and the campus grounds. The Dove's live in Manquin, VA., just a couple of hours from campus, and have promised to be back in April for the reunion. And Gary is strongly considering volunteering at the museum at least once, to see how it goes. I am so sorry to report that I have lost the photograph of your visit.





John Wescoat and Annie McConnell visited the museum for the first time. John's father, **Harold Wescoat**, graduated from AMA in 1931. They received a 1931 Recall by way of "Thank You" for a large contribution to the museum, after finding numerous photos in the Recall of Harold they had never seen.



Volunteer Museum Docents **Victor Gomez, '69, Ben Zinkhan, '60, Warren Fleming, '72** and visitor **Russell Wells, '72**, recently gathered together at the museum.



Gerald Dawson '67, his wife, son and daughter in law. This was Gerald's first time back since graduating.



John Floyd, '72. This was John's first time back to campus in 45 years!



Bart Burgwyn, '70, and his wife returned to campus for the first time after he left in 1970, because they saw the sign on IH81.

Did you know?

The museum routinely welcomes hundreds of visitors per year. It can be a very busy place, and the need for volunteers is there. Would you consider volunteering just one Saturday per year?

Contact the museum at 540-248-3007

A perfect way to remember an AMA friend

What could be a more permanent or appropriate way to remember a cadet or faculty member than with a laser engraved paver installed in front of the AMA Museum for people to see for years to come.

A LEGACY IN STONE

**PAVERS TELL
AMA'S STORY**

Place an order for an 8" X 8" paver for \$100 or a 4" X 8" paver for \$50. The 8" X 8" will give you five lines of no more than 12 characters while the 4" X 8" allows for three lines of not more than 12 characters each. PLEASE PRINT!

Your name _____ Class _____
Address _____
City, State and ZIP _____
Phone (____) _____
E-mail _____

Line 1 _____
Line 2 _____
Line 3 _____
Line 4 _____
Line 5 _____

Make checks to AMA Alumni Foundation, PO Box 100, Fort Defance 24437 ~ or ~

E-mail Museum@AMAAumni.org with credit card information.



AMA Museum

You know ... it must look easy from a distance.

We are just a little museum sitting at the old school, resting here in Fort Defiance.

Nothing much going on here, you might think.

And, some days, you would be right. And, on those days, **we thank the Lord** for the blissful quiet to regroup and energize and prep for the next wave of crazy to come through the door.

The work here comes in tidal waves and seasons and is stretched out over a rare few that step up to the plate. The pace here demands workhorse efforts one week followed by a few days of standstill and before taking off at breakneck pace the next. Most of the work relies on other folks' priorities and demands. It cannot be planned or scheduled and is difficult to manage ... at best. Some days we are the windshield. Some days we are the bug.

We work closely with one another. We fight and argue sometimes. **We are best friends. We are opponents.**

We worry ... about each other; about the future of the museum; about who is going to work the museum next Saturday; about who is on the phone right now as it rings for the 35th time today.

We worry ... about the days when we are stretched too thin; about who is going to take over one of these days when this one or that one decides to quit.

We worry ... about the days we have no visitors and we worry about the days we have too many visitors all at once.

We work. We rest.

Most importantly, **we come back.**

Day after day and week after week, **we do come back.**

Now, some days we leave here and swear before God and the home team that you will never see me here again. But, **we come back.**

Then, there are some days when you are driving away, heading for home on warm autumn afternoon and the sun going down behind the Barracks casts a shadow on the trees leading to the front gate ... and you thank God for bringing you to this very special place to work for these people and tend to this history. And, that is why ... **we come back.**

And, I don't know, but perhaps **we all come back** because we are just a little nuts? Maybe we are edging right up against that crazy that we generally accuse other people of being? Because, really, who would continue investing time, and such effort, into a cause that



will most likely end at some point. What kind of nut does that? Well, we do.

We are hard-headed. And, we are not going to stop just because it makes no sense. Geez!

No. **We are planning** to move right on ahead as if the sky is the limit. Because we can certainly be the Best Little Museum in Virginia ... we have no doubt about that. So, we just move through our own little AMA world and soldier on.

What if we close one day, you might ask?

"Close? Who? Us?," we might respond.

Not skeerd, as we say in the South.

We might swerve, but we really don't want to hit the brakes.

So, we come back. But, **we come with a plan.**

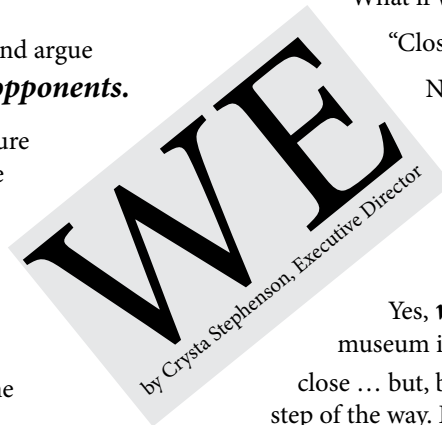
Yes, **we get it.** There will likely be a time when the museum is no longer financially feasible. The doors may close ... but, believe me when I say, **we will fight** it every step of the way. But, when we finally see that it is time to make that transition, don't worry, **we will handle it. We will be here.**

We will find good homes for all the items. **We will** distribute them the best way possible and place them in locations where they will be conserved and, hopefully, see some exhibit space from time to time.

Ahhh ... but that is not all ... because there is a grand plan in place to circumvent the actual end of the museum. Because, rather than seeing the end, you will be introduced to the beginning of an on-line museum when photos and reproductions of our collections will live on-line and attached to our website. And, that will last well beyond the physical life of the museum.

And, there you have it. Because **we may stumble**, but **we will never quit.**

We hit the ground running. We stay the course. We finish the race. We come back. The work is hard. But, the passion for it is easy.



VMI Keydets Commemorate the Historic Battle of New Market

The VMI Corps of Cadets fought as a unit at the Battle of New Market, Virginia, on May 15, 1864. The cadets, numbering 257, were organized into a battalion of four companies of Infantry and one section of Artillery. Ten cadets were killed in battle or died later from the effects of their wounds; 45 were wounded. The youngest participating cadet was fifteen; the oldest twenty-five.

On May 10, 1864, the VMI Corps of Cadets was ordered to join Gen. John C. Breckinridge's Confederate forces near Staunton, Virginia. After marching nearly 85 miles northward, the Corps arrived at New Market on Sunday morning May 15, 1864. Gen. Franz Sigel's Union troops, positioned atop Bushong's Hill, raked the Confederate line with cannon and musketry creating a gap in the line. Remarkably, the cadets helped close the gap, allowing the Confederate forces to regroup and push back the Union army. Breckenridge forced Sigel and his men to retreat, securing the battlefield for the Confederacy. Many cadets lost their footwear in the freshly plowed soil, turned to thick mud after several days of rain. That section of the battlefield became known as the "Field of Lost Shoes."¹

Every year, the Keydets of VMI commemorate the Battle of New Market by reenacting that historic march from Lexington to New Market. Part of that march is a rest stop and lunch at the AMA Museum. This year was no different. Because of rain, the church allowed the use of the gymnasium for the event.

VMI and AMA have a rich history together. **Charles S. Roller, Jr.** attended VMI as have many other AMA graduates. The museum has a nice display of this history, featuring each cadet who went on to VMI, and a comparison of uniforms and other artifacts which demonstrate the influence VMI had on AMA.

We are grateful to the volunteers who worked on behalf of AMA to provide the Keydets of VMI a memorable and pleasant rest: **Frank Spencer '49**, and son David; **Buddy Krise, '57**, with his daughter, Linda Barnes; **Ben Zinkhan '60**, with daughter Sherri and grandson Michael; **Doug Carter '72**, with Connie; and **Victor Gomez, '69**.

¹ "Battle of New Market." Battle of New Market - VMI Archives - Virginia Military Institute, www.vmi.edu/archives/civil-war-and-new-market/battle-of-new-market/. Accessed 15 Sept. 2017.



Frank Spence visits with two Keydets during lunch



A hearty and healthy lunch was provided by AMA volunteers.



Rat Disciplinary Committee guidon carried by the Keydets.



The Keydets continue their march, departing AMA in a drenching rain.

Ladies of AMA

by Nancy Botcheller

I am honored that BJ d'Orsay asked me to write a new series for the Bayonet on The Women of AMA. My first subject is probably the best known: Linda Livick. I have known Mrs. Livick since 1965. Our friendship has grown over the years and remains strong, especially since I have been able to attend many AMA Alumni gatherings. Interviewing Linda was delightful; her gracious manner was always kind and it was a pleasure to ask her questions about her life. I also discovered that our birth days are only one day apart: true Virgos. Here we go!



LINDA ROLLER LIVICK

Please give us your full name, where were you born and who are you named after.

Linda Moorman Roller Livick born to Charles S. Roller, III and Linda Peyton Todd Roller on September 7, 1936 at Kings Daughters Hospital in Staunton, VA. September 7th was also the birth date of my grandfather, though I arrived 15 minutes earlier. I was the only grandchild of Major and Mrs. Charles S. Roller, Jr. The "Linda" came from my mother, Linda, and the Moorman was the maiden name of my great grandmother, Rosabelle Moorman Roller (wife of Charles S. Roller).

Share your earliest memories of your parents and grandparents.

My father died when I was 18 months old, so I do not remember him. I have

many memories of my grandparents and spending time with them at White Hall, going to parades at AMA, visiting relatives, etc. At an early age my mother taught me to ride and to love horses.

What were your earliest memories of AMA?

AMA was always a part of my life and I loved the dress parades.

Where did you attend school?

I attended the Staunton Public schools for my first 7 years. I then attended Stuart Hall for 4 years and the Converse College in Spartanburg, SC.

Describe yourself as a young adult

I was always interested in art, drawing and painting and playing field hockey, basketball, and horseback riding.

How and where did you meet your husband? Where and when did you marry?

I met Mal when he was teaching and coaching at AMA in Nov. 1955. We were married in 21 July of 1956 in Chesterfield, SC and celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary last year with many of our children and grandchildren.

Share about your life raising a family on campus

We raised our 5 children at White Hall and we all were a part of everything at AMA. I was a "mother figure" to Lower School visiting every week after study hall with goodies and a visit to each room. Three of our boys graduated from AMA, one went 5-8 and our daughter went one year to summer school. We usually had Sunday dinner in the Mess Hall and we attended most athletic events and all dances. AMA was always a very important part of my life until the school closed in January of 1984.

What are the most memorable moments of your life?

Most memorable times in my life: when I married Mal and the birth of our 5 children. Mal and I are blessed to have 17 great grandchildren who all live in our area.



Linda Livick was often seen with Lee, her daughter, during formal occasions on campus. This photo is from the 1965 Recall of them during a springtime formal Sunday parade. It is one of Linda's favorite photos.

In the next edition of *The Women of AMA*, the subject will be Janet Campbell Stevenson, Linda Livick's paternal grandmother. I will have the pleasure of spending more time with Linda, who so kindly shares her family history and of AMA's earlier days.



Roses among Thorns: the Ladies of AMA

The 2017 Charlton interns, Kirsten Lambert and Alexandra Harter, created this museum display this summer.

The women of AMA were important figures in the lives of the cadets. On display are various images of the women's day-to-day lives at the school and their portraits, taken through the years and included in AMA's annual yearbook, the Recall. This display provides an understanding of the work and support that women provided at the all-boys school.

Featured women: Mrs. Janet S. Roller, wife of The Big Boy; Mrs. G William Ralph, teacher in Junior school and drama; Mrs. Linda Livick, wife of Col. Malcolm Livick and Great-Granddaughter to AMA's founder, Col. Charles S. Roller; Mrs. Etta Canavet, R.N., school nurse; Mrs. Virginia Wales, mother of Linda Livick and wife of Col. Wales; Mrs. Maggie Bell Robinson, daughter of Col. Charles S. Roller, founder of AMA; Mrs. O. A. H. Davis, housemother, junior barracks.

WHAT'S LEFT (continued from page 1)

Remember the hill behind the Barracks? Saturday hikes through the woods to Bald Rock, or simply laying out on the hill for a tan.

Marching? Did we go anywhere without marching? Even if it was only a few yards to the mess hall, the drums beat and we marched.

Parades every Sunday. It was inspiring to see family, friends, and the community come out to watch us march in our best dress uniforms. It bolstered our pride when we formed up on black top and marched around the bowl to eventually form up on the field. And then we passed in review as the band played.

We marched to the big room for classes. We marched to church. We practiced marching in the afternoons. We marched with our rifles, we marched without our rifles. We marched. And we learned teamwork. We learned to depend on each other's performance.

We played poker for cigarettes. We snuck out of the barracks at night for a beer run, or to go into town for a visit to Stuart Hall. Some had tv's and would run electrical wires to their room so they had 24-hour power, while the rest of us had to suffer lights-out. There is no end to the shenanigans that were pulled in those barracks.

We weren't always the best at sports, but we tried our hardest. And we had the best coaches. We played football at several levels, baseball, basketball, soccer, tennis, lacrosse, fencing, rifle, and probably more that I'm forgetting.

I was a *Recall* photographer for Doc Savedge, so I got out of sports by taking pictures of sports. I was a wimpy little kid at the time, and a bookworm, and had no time for sports. So the photographer thing came in real handy. I remember trying to get focused and sharp photos of action sports shots, something much easier said than done.

Many of our minor sports did quite well. Others not so good.

Remember the trips into Staunton to play SMA at football? It was usually winter and cold, and it may have been our first outing in our heavy overcoats. Our rivalry with SMA knew no bounds.

I remember the football team arriving back at school after the first game of the '68-'69 year. We had lost to Greenbrier, 0-77. I thought then it would be a long year. And I was right. But they had spirit! They did not give up, even though they played without a win that year.

But what a life lesson that was! Our team did not give up! We pushed forward to the end. We hung in there.

Are memories all that we have left? Our youngest alumni are now 52 years old. Most of us reading this are in our 60's and 70's, and some even in their 80's and 90's.

Fortunately, memories are not all we have left. For one thing, we have each other. We can come together each year at our annual reunions in April. We have social media. There are four FaceBook groups devoted to keeping alumni and friends in touch with each other. I encourage you to search one out and join it if you have not already. If you already are a member, become more active within that group. I have made many friends with alumni on FaceBook that I would not otherwise have known, and I am richer for it.

We have a museum! Not many other closed military schools can say that. Our museum currently has over 5,000 items cataloged and archived. There are displays covering all aspects of the history of AMA and the cadet life we all experienced. Do you want to grab up a rifle and do a quick Shoulder Arms? You can at the museum! Do you want to bring your kids and grand-kids so they can see what you've been talking about all these years? You can!

You can come to campus, see big barracks, the museum, tour the campus and remember! Remember the "good old days!" Remember the "sad old times!"



This sign over the door of the museum welcomes visitors. "Son, Son, Son, We Miss You" was a well known phrase often spoken by The Big Boy himself.

~ 46 ~

Colonel Jimmy Pigg lives in Shalimar, FL with his wife, Nell. After he retired from the Army, Jimmy was president of a construction company and later the general manager of a resort condo. His grandson Cooper Prudent received an AMA Legacy Scholarship this year. [jlpnsp@cox.net]

Dr. Ed Leventen is teaching physical diagnosis in orthopedic surgery to third year medical students at the UCLA Med School. He is fully retired from practicing medicine. He and Ruth have two children and three grandchildren, including twins. The Leventens live in Encino, CA.

[isawbonz@aol.com]



Dr. Ed Leventen, '47 and wife Ruth

~ 48 ~

Allen Tomlin lost his wife in 2016 after 63 years of marriage. He has had to give up tennis, something he loved for 65 years and limits his driving to his new local area. He has moved to a retirement home in Virginia Beach, VA, to be near his grandchildren.

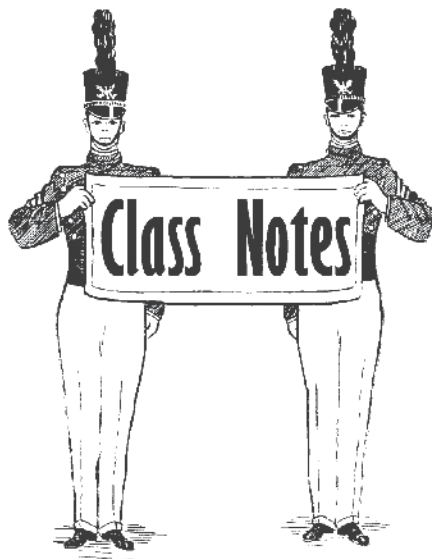
~ 49 ~

Dr. Meb Turner, former President of the University of Baltimore, and his wife, Eva, are still living in Baltimore. They also have a second home at Ocean City. Meb was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2007 and the AMA Sports Hall of Fame in 2009. A UVA graduate, Meb and Eva come back to Charlottesville for many home football games.

LTC Frank Spencer is now living in Staunton on Woodlee Road. He and his late wife, Ida, are Roller Society members.

[frankspencerr53@gmail.com]

Louis Philhower was an investment counselor for J. C. Bradford and later a Senior Vice President of Paine Webber from 1958 until his retirement this year. He lives in Macon, GA, was Captain of Headquarters Company at AMA and played on the State and Orchid Bowl Champion football team.



~ 50 ~

Tommy Clements studied geology and physics at Virginia Tech and the University of Alabama. He had a career in the oil and gas industry and has relocated from Mississippi to Dallas to be near his daughters.

[tclements7@att.net]

Bob Bradford recently retired as editor in chief of The Bayonet to become editor emeritus. He checked in with us writing, "My one and only e-mail address hereafter is this one: reb111270@aol.com. The AMABayonet@aol.com address is now inactive."

[reb111270@aol.com]

Reverend Jim Lupton has just completed his third novel, *Tarboro Tea Party*, which contains scenes from a military school near Staunton though it is never identified as AMA. After 20 years, Jim retired as Priest-in-Charge at St. George's Episcopal Church in Lake Landing, NC.

[jlupton2002@yahoo.com]

~ 52 ~

Richard Chichester has been elected to the Virginia Livestock Hall of Fame. Richard is the retired CEO of Select Sires, Inc, an artificial insemination company. He lives in Falmouth, VA in the house where he was born.

Cole Sandridge lost his wife, Roy Ann, at the end of August. We are thinking about you, Cole. Cole lives in Charlottesville.

[cwsandridge@aol.com]

Tommy Mitchell retired several years ago from the Virginia Department of Transportation. He and Constance live in Staunton and he is a member of the Roller Society.

Dr. Bill Ragland is President of Zagreb Biotek in Supetar, Croatia. He is professor

emeritus at the University of Georgia and a counsellor at the Rudjer Boskovic Institute. Bill had done intensive studies on immune suppression, a very serious problem worldwide in the poultry industry.

[zagreb.biotek@email.t-com.ht]

~ 53 ~

Low Mundin, former owner of Creery Ltd custom shirt makers, has retired from Peter Blair men's clothing in Richmond. He now has nine grandchildren.

[lmundin35@gmail.com]

Bob Lowenbach retired 22 years ago as a water/sewer inspector in Leesburg, VA. Bob and Betty have three children, four grandchildren and a great-granddaughter. Bob is now the oldest member (in years of membership) in the Leesburg Presbyterian Church.

[below@verizon.net]

~ 54 ~

Manley Caldwell in the principal in the law firm Caldwell, Pacetti, Edwards in Palm Beach, FL. He is a member of the Florida and Virginia Bars.

[caldwell@caldwellpacetti.com]

~ 55 ~

Bill Johnston is still farming in Jackson, NC. Bill has always brought his delicious peanuts to reunions! Bill has three children and ten grandchildren.

[billj60@hotmail.com]

~ 56 ~

Stephen Tomasek has retired from the US Department of Veterans Affairs and lives in Millersville, MD. with his wife, Ann.

[stevasek@verizon.net]

Elgin Niningner owned Shady Lane Seafood in Colonial Beach, VA for 52 years and now, his son, Dean, runs the business. Elgin and Betty Lou have been married for 55 years and have two children and five grandchildren.

~ 57 ~

Jim Hume is a school teacher and track coach in San Mateo, CA. He is a member of Track and Field, the US governing body for those sports. Earlier this year, Jim earned the Pacific Association's Dick Conners Meritorious Service Award.

[jcdhume@sbcglobal.net]

Buddy Krise is retired and he and Sandra live in Norfolk. They are faithful attendees at each reunion and help in myriad ways at each annual get together. They also come to Fort Defiance each Fall to greet the VMI cadets on their trek from Lexington to the New Market Battlefield.

~ 59 ~

Bill Blakely retired in 2002 as Safety Manager at Martin Army Community Hospital at Fort Benning. He and wife Juliette live in Flat Rock, NC. They have

three children, seven grandchildren and a new e-mail address.

[billjuliette.blakely@gmail.com]

Bob Battenhouse retired in 2012 where he had designed and constructed fossil fuel power plants. He and his wife, Lan, live in Denver and they have three children, the oldest of which is a Captain in the Denver Fire Department. Bob and Lan counsel married and engaged couples.

[rtbattenhouse@worldnet.att.net]

Walter Anderson has retired as Managing Director of Wachovia Securities in Richmond. He and Brenda Lloyd now live in Afton. Walter was Captain of Headquarters Company and captain of the basketball and football teams at AMA.

~ 60 ~

George Holt is the retired President of Holt Sublimation Printing in Burlington, NC. George has made major contributions to the publication of The Bayonet. He had a heart attack a year ago but is doing well now.

[gholt3@triad.rr.com]

~ 61 ~

Art Hurme has relocated from Alexandria to Bridgewater.

[hurme@cox.net]

Colonel Jim Crawford, USMC, Retired, was sales director of Nortel until he retired. He and Betty live in Atlanta. Jim was Battalion Commander at AMA and served in Vietnam.

[jfcrawford@me.com]

~ 62 ~

Bill Brooks, a former member of the French Foreign Legion, sells militaria on eBay under Recondo80. He and Kay live in Montgomery, AL. He taught high school history in North Carolina and was Military History Editor of Soldier of Fortune magazine.

[Bill@BrooksMilitaria.com]

Larry James has retired at the rank of lieutenant from the Greensboro, NC Police Department.

Bob Tiller owned and operated Miracle Water Sales and Service in Achilles, VA from 1976 until 2011. He served in the Navy.

~ 63 ~

Jack Schwarzmans grandson Trevor Schwarzmans repeated as Standard-Times Player of the Year after a season in which he only improved upon last year's performance, including beating his next closest competition for the honor.

[trev1170@aol.com]

Bob Hume sold his Travel Mates business a few years ago and is now driving a motor coach for James Madison University. Bob donated to AMA his bus services many times in the past when he transported

reunion goers to places of interest, for which we thank him sincerely. One of his fondest recollections is driving General Roller in the AMA Jeep at the General's last Veterans Day Parade in Harrisonburg. He lives in Penn Laird near Harrisonburg.

[bob4863@comcast.net]

~ 64 ~

Steven Chisick is still in a rehab center in Illinois recovering from exposure to Agent Orange. He hopes to be transferred to a facility in North Carolina. His sister, Andrea, says that he is now moving about with a walker and keeps up to date "*so nothing escapes his attention.*"

Alan Berliere has retired from an executive position at Circuit City and has relocated from East Stroudsville, PA to Southern California. Alan was elected to Ad Astra the year before he graduated.

~ 65 ~

Ben Beard and Polly live in Pensacola where Ben served as Assistant US Attorney for Western Florida before his retirement in 2013. Ben received countless awards for his superior service including the Exceptional Service Award presented by the National Association of Former United States Attorneys. The Beards three children.

[benwbeard@bellsouth.net]

~ 66 ~

Dave Carissimi lives in Skaneateles, NY having moved there from Creve Coeur, MO. He retired from the WR Grace Educational Division.

[David.carissimi@verizon.net]

Barry Weeks, CEPP, is an estate planner and agent in Gray, GA. He has won several awards from the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA). Barry has two children and two grandchildren. He was Captain of Headquarters Company his last year at AMA.

[bbwplanning@gmail.com]

~ 67 ~

Richard Cullen is to step down as McGuireWoods chairman but continue law practice. The end of this year will close an era, but not a career, for Richard Cullen. See story in Winter 2017 issue, page 13. "*I think the time is right for the firm to have new, younger leadership,*" he said in an interview at McGuireWoods' headquarters in Gateway Plaza, which it added to the downtown Richmond skyline two years ago. "*I'm just not going to be the boss,*" he added. "*I'll just be one of the guys, which will be fun — I was one of the guys for 30 years.*"

Randy Boswell was an MRI and radiologist technician at the Medical Center in Durham, NC before retiring. [tbosdu@Frontier.com]

Gordon Jernigan owns a waterproofing company in Walkersville, MD and has a beach house on North Carolina's Outer Banks. Plus he is the proud great-grandfather of a little girl!

~ 68 ~

Jackson Prentice is the principal owner/broker at Broshears Real Estate and President for the last 40 years of Jackson Prentice Real Estate Services. He and Mary Ruth live in Alexandria.

[jbprentice@aol.com]

~ 69 ~

Harvey Bowers has owned and operated the Agate Inn in Wasilla, Alaska for many years but says he is getting out of the business. He just returned from a 100 mile trip on the upper Yukon River "*but the weather was more like summer than fall.*" He saw no caribou and only one Bull Moose "*who was swimming in the river.*"

[alaska@agateinn.com]

Nicky Syropoulos has retired from Public Sector Operations at the Xerox Corporation. He and Robin live in Baltimore and they have three children and a new granddaughter born last March.

[nick.syropoulos51@gmail.com]

Rex Rumley, at age 66 with a degree in micro computing, will start chef classes in November "so that I can be a better cook for my family." Rex lives in Columbus, OH.

~ 70 ~

Ray Marcantoni, a longtime resident of Baltimore, has relocated to Jacksonville, FL. Ray was elected to the AMA Sports Hall of Fame in 2014 having been the captain of every Augusta team he played on - Peep football, JV football, varsity football, lacrosse and wrestling.

[raymarc3@comcast.net]

Shared a nice conversation today with classmate and lacrosse teammate

Bruce Reyngoudt, '70. Bruce is now "semi" retired and still living in Summerland Key, Florida. His wife Nadja owns and is active in a gift shop at Big Pine Key. Their son Sean a very talented kite boarding aficionado (check out his videos on Face book) is now living in Puerto Rico. His daughter Ruth is married and lives in Boca Raton, Fla. Bruce asked that I say Hello to his AMA brothers, He can be reached at 305-923-6249. From **Jorge Roviroso, '70.**



Bud Oakey, '70, visited with "my brother **John Arthur, '75**." John is chairing a group called CreatiVets a program designed to help vets recover from PTSD and head injuries through art. "A wonderful exhibit. I learned a lot."

~ 71 ~

Michael Wickum graduated in 1971 Band Co. ... Chuck Hillsman was C.O, with classmates Mike Hayes, Dean Lake, Greg Marsteller, Cam Bell ... the old days. I remember Leroy the stu bum. Hopefully I'm coming back for the big 50 ... retired engineer from Sikorsky Aircraft.

[mwick53@aol.com]

Ron "Scootch" Melcher was recently visited by classmates Jorge Roviroso and Mike Kidd. See photo on page 24.

Lewie Kennett is a retired firefighter who lives with his special needs daughter in Boones Mill near Roanoke.

[lkennett@aol.com]

Stride Coleman is living in Linden, NC having relocated from Fayetteville. Stride reports that he is "back to normal" after undergoing medical procedures this summer.

[larrykcoleman@yahoo.com]

Ron "Scootch" Melcher is the retired regional sales manager for AIP, Inc. Scootch had a stroke in 2008 but Janice reports that he is doing really well. They live in Cleveland. He was the Battalion Commander his senior year. He was recently visited by classmates Jorge Roviroso and Mike Kidd. See photo on page 24.

[scootch816@gmail.com]

~ 72 ~

Bruce Strange and **Brenda** live in Baltimore. Bruce is a marvelous photographer and many of his photos have appeared in previous issues of The Bayonet.

[brucestrange@comcast.net]

Doug Driscoll owns an advertising agency and entertainment newspaper serving ten counties in Indiana. He has moved from Fort Wayne to Columbia City, IN with his wife, Anita. Doug attended Washington and Lee, Roanoke College and Ball State

University. [doug.whatzup@gmail.com]

Tom Barnes is Regional Manager of WestLAND Group in Santa Clarita, CA. WestLAND specializes in civil engineering and site development plus surveying and mapping. Tom is former director of survey and mapping for WHPacific. He lives in Santa Clarita.

~ 73 ~

LTC David Zook retired from the Army in 2002 and lives in Herndon, VA.

[zookdh@yahoo.com]

Tom Del Valle, former Senior Vice President of American Airlines, now has his own company, Anvry Solutions LLC, assisting airlines with security and ground operations. Tom lives in Colleyville, TX.

[Scooter111@att.net]

~ 74 ~

Frank Geddie was in Fayetteville, VA, where he found out his doctor's father attended AMA for 8 years in the 1930's. He asked if AMA still had a boxing team. Small world.

[frankgeddie@gmail.com]

~ 75 ~

Lieutenant General Larry Nicholson, the Commanding General of III Marine Expeditionary Force, Japan, reports that his youngest son, Captain Kevin Nicholson, USMC, will be coming home from Afghanistan in time for a Thanksgiving family reunion at Camp Lejeune, NC. Larry and Debbie have three sons: Kevin, 30, Major Andrew, USMC, 34, and Danny, 32, who works for Georgia-Pacific.

[Nicholson@yahoo.com]

James (Jim) Yancy has pancreatic cancer and has little time left. He wanted to make the reunion but his health kept him away. At present, the VA is taking care of him and has him on a drug cocktail to keep him comfortable. He is living with his sister in Sterling, VA. If you want to call him his number is 703-421-4320.

[Reported by Brett Thompson, '75]

~ 76 ~

Ed Rogerville showing us a view from his office, continues at KBS as a Project Superintendent. "I ensure the project is built to the specifications and plans. I schedule the sub-contractors and I'm responsible for the day to day activities on site. This site is in Richmond. KBS stands for Kenbridge Building Systems but the company trades under the name KBS. We have two underground fuel tanks that are encased in concrete. They gotta go! And yes, that is a big honkin' jack hammer!"

[erogerville@hotmail.com]



Checking in after reading the Summer Bayonet, **Ron Spriggs** noted that he was also in the '77 basketball team photo on page 16. Ron was number 53. Ron is currently an attorney in Amarillo, TX.

[spriggslawronald@gmail.com]

Jim Favors is in restaurant management in San Jose, CA. [jimmfavors@hotmail.com]

~ 77 ~

Shawn Ogimachi is building a "small house" in the native village of Klawock, Alaska where he and his wife have a salmon trolling operation. He has retired from the faculties of San Jose State University and Cabrillo College and will be spending winters in Hawaii. "I am blessed beyond words," says Ogi. [shogimac@cabrillo.edu]

~ 82 ~

Bill McCeney is a Maryland State Employee. He lives in Silver Spring.

Peyton Lea, '65, posted these reunion comments on FaceBook.

This was my 3rd reunion, i. e. 1992, 2015- my 50th from graduation and 2017 ... I had great experiences this year in seeing a lot of alumni that were in the 67 class as well as other alumni that preceded me at AMA as well as those that were years behind me ... it was a great time to mix and be with others who I didn't go to the Academy with but all the same we shared the same experiences ... I had the experience of being at AMA when Col./ Gen. Roller was there as well as the Col. Gardner/ Col. Livick era. I am truly a AMA Cadet from my years there 59-65 to still being one at the age of 71. AMA runs in my Family as my father was an AMA Cadet from 1924 to 1929... he was a classmate of C. S. Roller, III as well as a Graduate of VMI ... I definitely want to return to reunions and not just every 5 or 10 year anniversaries to my graduation date... so with that in mind I look forward to the 2018 reunion and hope that other Cadets will do the same regardless of their year of graduation or attendance at AMA.

5 years ago 10 years ago 15 years ago 20 years ago

Bruce Hemp, a Stuart Hall grad and Fort Defiance High School teacher, is continuing to spearhead the effort to support the Marines and Sailors who are serving in the Musa Qa'leh and Now Zad areas of Afghanistan. Gen. Larry Nicholson, '76 was in command of the region. This is an extension of AMA's effort to help young people in that beleaguered country.

The AMA Alumni Foundation has received the first of what are hoped to be many grants to promote historical research and other programs. Virginia **Senator Emmett Hanger** of Mount Solon in Augusta County went to bat for the AMA Foundation in the Virginia State Senate and secured a \$10,000 state grant, later reduced to \$9,500, to supplement the legacy Scholarship Program in 2008.

The AMA Alumni Association had its annual picnic on the campus Saturday 14 September. There was a threat of rain, but the parched Valley received no measurable moisture that day. President **Garry Granger, '71**, said he was pleased with the event.

Steve Pearson, '72 (now deceased) says to those who have not been back to an Augusta reunion lately, *"There is a magic that you may have forgotten which will appear. It doesn't matter if you were Battalion Commander, a lifer, a PG student, a private, the 'photo clerk', or a sports star, the magic is equally distributed!"*

MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bob [Bradford], thank you so very much for your sincere commitment to the publication over the many years, so we could all steal back a little piece of our past. Your devotion has been so admirable, and I just want to personally thank you for all the memories that you have brought us through this dedication, and it would not have been possible my friend without your dedication!! Your awesome...

Best Regards

Reed Nettles, '72

Reed@MandalayBaylicensing.com

One of my best days there with **Major Dekle** was about 2-3 days after school started. I had transferred in from RMA and. Dekle called me down and told me I was automatically qualified for "Old Cadet Status"... THAT meant a LOT! (You see, RMA then did not brace or have any such thing as Old Cadet/New Cadet status. I had NO IDEA until I got there at AMA) But getting back to my room and NOW acting like an "old" cadet was impossible. I must have done 60 push ups between there and my room ha ha. ONE CO did listen to me and let me go saying if I was lying I would do push ups forever ha ha. I think his name was Nikki ha ha. Yep our friend the Actor (Love ya Bro ha ha) Major Dekle finally had to call my CO (**Larry Thiel Milano, '70**) down and tell him to spread the word. That was one of my best days there ha ha. Man, Larry didn't like it and hollered at me but accepted it. I sort of already new how to shine shoes and march and even clean m weapon. I had already been exposed to 2 years at RMA before AMA (PLUS summer school at RMA to make requirements at AMA) Well that and graduating were my BEST days there ha ha. That and, well, well heck, I would have to search to find bad days there. They were all pretty darn good as I recall. I was just tired of RMA and some of the things they did PLUS AMA was several hundred miles closer and mom and dad could visit. I suppose I felt closer to Major Dekle than about any other teacher/admin there.

-- Rex Rumley, '70



There was a bike ride for veterans the first weekend of September beginning at Gypsy Hill Park in Staunton. AMA and SMA Museums were asked to set up exhibits as well as the American Legion. The exhibits were at the gymnasium at the park and were available for all the riders to see before they departed at 9. Our display focused on our school history and the role of AMA cadets in WWI. The display was assembled by Ben Zinkhan and Morgan Liddick.



Bruce Hemp hosted **Larry Nicholson, '76**, and some of his fellow Marines. Bruce reported, *"We did indeed have a delightful time. It was a lot of work, but I enjoy entertaining. And I always enjoy seeing the guys. We had 3 Generals, 6 Colonels, 2 Lt. Colonels, 2 Majors, one Captain, 2 Sgt. Majors, and a Command Master Chief. SgtMaj Hoopii kept saying this is the best one ever! He said over and over, I had such a great time! It was fun!"*

The Ad Astra roster has been painstakingly updated by **Bob Bradford, '50**, with help from **Ed Click, '50**. The new roster can be seen on our website at <http://AMAalumni.org/ad-astra-society/>

This Blows

Hurricanes Ravage Puerto Rico

By Doug Pennock, '72

[Editor's note: Doug wrote the first portion of this article soon after Irma sideswiped Puerto Rico. Little did either of us know the devastation Maria would wreak on the island. The second part of this tale contain excerpts from Doug's FaceBook posts. You can read the complete article on-line at AMAalumni.org under the News menu item.]

The Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30 of each calendar year. The peak of Hurricane season is August 15 - October 15. You can pretty much set your barometer to that.

Mother nature has not let us down so far during hurricane season 2017. Colorado State University's forecast for the 2017 hurricane season was pretty much a vanilla average of the last 30-year cycle. 14 named storms, 6 hurricanes of which 2 would be category 3 or stronger.

I am writing this article on September 12, 2017, just 3 days short of the top of the bell curve for this year's peak of activity.

I think the folks of southern Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Antigua - Barbuda, St Barth's, St Martin - Saint Marteen, Anguilla, Anegada, Virgin Gorda, Tortola, Culebra, northern Puerto Rico, northern Dominican Republic, northern Haiti, northern Cuba, Turks and Caicos Islands, the state of Florida, especially Key West and the southern Keys straight north from Naples all the way to Tampa and Orlando, the Florida panhandle, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina would argue that this year's hurricane season is definitely NOT vanilla!

Let me recap what we have experienced so far in the 2017 Hurricane Season:

HURRICANE HARVEY

Harvey formed on August 17, 2017. On August 26th Harvey made landfall on Rockport, Texas, as a Category 4 hurricane. Harvey stalled over south-eastern Texas and even though the devastating winds had subsided to Category 1, he stalled and proceeded to drench that part of Texas with up to 51 inches of rain! He slowly moved on and drenched the state of Louisiana. Property damage in the US is estimated to be more than 80 billion dollars!

HURRICANE IRMA

I can speak from experience about Hurricane Irma and feel blessed that we were spared her wrath and fury on my home island of Puerto Rico.

Irma formed way out in the eastern

Atlantic more than 2,000 miles from the Leeward Islands. She began her westward track and quickly strengthened as she got into warmer waters. Irma became a category 5 super hurricane on September 5th, and continued to increase in strength that same day until reaching the unbelievable speed of 185 MPH! She was also packing 225 MPH gusts! That is about 30 MPH faster than what NASCAR drivers do on a super speedway! Irma had just become the most powerful hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic Basin.

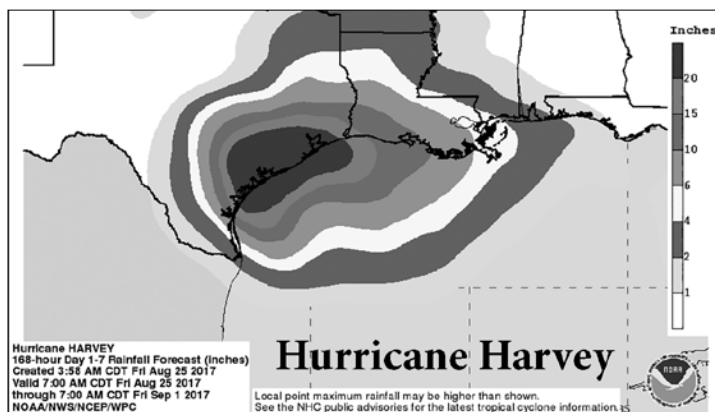
The storm surprised all forecasters and continued her westerly track pretty much across the Atlantic Ocean. That rarely happens, since most storms that form that far east usually take a northerly turn and disappear into the cold waters of the north Atlantic.

At about the time Irma was smashing St Thomas, I was and had been glued to the Weather Channel. Because of the pilot in me, I had been keeping track of the storm by marking my aviation sectional chart with each official US Weather Service storm position update. I was starting to get very concerned that the projected north-west turn was not going to happen and the line of dots on my chart were heading straight to Puerto Rico. I was sure that we were next in line to be hammered! During the approach of Irma to Puerto Rico, I was contacted by email and social media by many friends and relatives. A large component of the well-wishers were my AMA brothers. I wish to acknowledge that your reach out of support was very much appreciated and cherished. **Thank you all!**

The four amigos, **Tom Del Valle, '73, Garry Granger, '71, Jorge Rovirosa, '70** and I kept in close communication. We shared important data (Del Valle is our in-house meteorologist) and of course we kept it light by constantly trading jokes and barbs. The AMA brotherhood stays strong in times of stress

and difficulty. Del Valle now known as "The Weather Dude", assured me that the storm was going to turn north west and was going to pass 35 miles north of Puerto Rico's north-eastern tip. True

to his forecast, the storm missed giving us a direct hit and for the following 8-10 hours all I felt were winds of 40-45 MPH and gusts of 70-to 80 MPH. Whew! We had a large tree fall in front of our house, blocking traffic and access for two days but that was the extent of our damage. Our electric went off just as the winds started to pick up and we have been on standby generator for 7 days now. I expect to be on generator for another 2 to 3 weeks. Puerto Rico was blessed as heavy damage missed us and we should be back to normal in a couple of weeks.



Only my favorite island Culebra was pretty badly damaged. The eye wall passed less than 20 miles north.

I had been in contact with various AMA alumni in Florida wishing them luck and support. I was able to speak or communicate by text or messenger with: **Jorge Rovirosa, Al Zayas, '72, Sam Wysong, '72, Tim Cooper, '69**, and my youngest son **Shawn**, who works with American Airlines and volunteered to stay at the Miami airport from Friday the 8th to Monday the 11th in order to get the AA assets at the airport ready for the storm and then get the airport ready to receive aircraft after the storm.

As everyone knows, the forecasters were always a little shaky regarding where exactly Irma was going to strike in South Florida. As the storm got closer, she kept creeping west and finally hit Key West dead on. She kept a northerly track and hit Marco Island, Naples, headed a little east of Ft. Myers and started to lose steam in her wind velocity. Nevertheless, she did a terrific amount of damage all the way up the west coast of Florida just south of the Tampa area. Her category 1 winds still did create damage all the way to Georgia and the tide surge damage was felt strongly all the way to Miami. I am certain this will be the most expensive hurricane recovery in US history.

I have been in constant communication with all of my AMA brothers through the event and thankfully, nobody suffered any catastrophic loss. Shawn and I talked late yesterday afternoon as he was heading home for a well-deserved rest, only to report to work this morning at 0500. So, what, he is safe and 38 years old. Still plenty of years of hard work and long hours left in the tank.

[Here begins excerpts from Doug's Facebook posts.]

Irma

September 6: Good morning all. 9:20 am and we just felt the first band. A few gusts and heavy rain. That's all it took to kill the power in my neighborhood... Generator turned on and we should be running on generator power for the next three to four weeks.... I will try and send regular posts as this thing winds up. Maybe a pic or video also. Doug out.

September 6: Hurricane Irma update #2. We have had the electric go off and on several times and currently have service. It has rained 1.55 inches at our house (according to my handy dandy weather station) currently the wind is light. A few 15mph+ gusts have hit us so no big deal. The storm's last track at 12:00 EDT (1600 Zulu) is 18.3 n 64.2 w. San Juan is at 18.5 latitude so the eye is just about at our lat and moving West north west at 16, meaning she will definitely miss Puerto Rico with a direct hit. (Whew) I expect to feel the storm winds sometime over the next hour or two. The worst should come around 9:00pm. Doug out.

September 6: Hurricane Irma update #3. Well, the storm is here and is behaving pretty much like we expected. So far rainfall has been 2.4 inches and the wind is blowing steady at 35-40mph with occasional gusts that may reach 50-60 mph. It may increase a bit over the next few hours. The wind has shifted from the northeast to west and we are getting rain percolation under the front door. Sunlight is pretty well hidden by the massive cloud cover so it looks and feels like late dusk outside. Other than our tree event a couple hours ago, nothing especially noteworthy has happened. Just like I hope it continues to be. The eye-wall is about 40 miles north-north east of the northeastern tip of Puerto Rico. The eye should be dead north of our location in a couple hours. I don't expect it to be any closer to the coast at that time.

Maria

September 19: The 11:00 PM update has been issued and Maria is holding steady at 175 mph and gusts of 215! I expect the storm to hit the southeast corner of the island in about 10 - 12 hrs. We

should be in the teeth of the storm even before landfall and I expect a 10 -14 hr blow. I am more concerned about this storm than any other I have lived through. We are in for a rough ride. As I said in my earlier post, I will try and send out reports later on, that all depends on cellular service being on. Our spirit is strong and we will come out of this with a few bruises but nothing we won't be able to handle.

September 20: 4:21 am: Well, I have not been able to sleep. We turned off the generator at 2:45 and the bands get a little stronger by the hour. Probably getting 50 to 60 mph gusts. The eye is still about 3 hours from landfall and has become much larger. Appears that we will get hit in eastern Puerto Rico around Humacao and the eye may cross us in San Juan. Worse track than I was hoping for. More in a couple hours.

September 20: 10:30 am. Cell communication is in and out so hopefully this message will get out. I believe that the worst of the storm is over. Not totally, but as the eye moves away from us the winds have been slowing, except for the gusts that sneak up at 100 plus mph and remind you it is not yet safe to leave the safety of your house. Trudy, Estrella and I are fine. Doug Jr., his wife and my grandkids are also okay as of two hours ago but they went dark so no contact recently. My mom is safe. Our house is fine except for water on the floor from windows that leaked with driving 130 mph rain.

September 21: Everyone in my direct family and close friends are good. Diego Suarez is my neighbor and is well. Puerto Rico is truly an unimaginable disaster area ... Nobody has power or water. We are lucky. We have a generator and I was able to get my 1000 gallon cistern working. Cell towers are down everywhere so communication is spotty.

September 23: No cell service, only 2 am radio stations on air to trickle out information. No fuel, or running water.

September 24: from Doug's wife Trudy: Happy Anniversary #41 Douglas W. Pennock. Hurricane Maria might have ruined the celebrations but not our love for each other...love you tons.

September 25: We woke up this morning with a trickle of water coming out of the tap and by mid afternoon pressure was about 75% of nominal. What a relief! Toilets fill and flush normally, we were using green swimming pool water for toilets since last Thursday. A real shower! You never really appreciate how precious clean water is until you don't have it.



Doug's farm office after hurricane Marie destroyed it

September 26: Let's see, a 155 mph monster storm rips up your island, all infrastructure is destroyed, no cell phone service, no fuel, no water and 7 days out, there is a 2 mph breeze, 85% humidity, Sahara dust in the atmosphere that acts just like a greenhouse. The outside temp is 94 degrees, heat index 105... And my back is SCREAMING!!! Other than that, everything be all right mon! (Bob Marley music playing in the background)

September 27: I was able to locate one of my landscape department supervisors who was sporting a bandage on his left leg. He got cut when his aluminum door blew open during the

Continued on page 21

James Clark Hash December 6, 1953 - July 7, 2017 "A Celebration of Life"

In early May the returned call finally came ... it was surreal "Hey Jim ... thanks for FINALLY calling back ... been trying to reach you ... you ok? Well, I've moved in with my sister in Fort Myers, Florida ... and ... I'm in Hospice! ... Did you say Hospice?" The explanation that followed led me to understand his fate with no uncertain terms and I soon realized, he was reaching out to "say goodbye"! This announcement launched a plethora of calls, visits, and contact among all who knew him. Jim's sister **Alison** and her husband **Leo Bourdelais** took care of him in his final months, nurturing and caring for him with love and attention. Jim aspired to move to Atlanta to be with his youngest son, but that was not to be ... the call I'd dreaded came on Saturday, it was his sister, Jim had passed the previous night, Friday July 7, 2017.



Many reached out, a few I'm aware of were; **Gary Cripps**, '71, (Delaware) flew down to take Jim fishing, **Jorge Rovirosa**, '70, (Miami) and **Mike Kidd**, '71, (Cleveland) drove across Alligator Alley to visit ... me[**Garry Granger**], '71, (Dallas), **Tom Del Valle**, '73, (Dallas) and **Doug Pennock**, '72, (Puerto Rico) flew in and took him to

dinner, then breakfast the next morning. It was during this May 16th visit when Jim asked that we spread his ashes in the courtyard of Main Barracks and sprinkle some at Stuart Hall.

To honor his wishes, plans were made to gather in Fort Defiance in the fall. September 30, 2017 was the date selected by the family. Surely a time we're all too familiar with, when the trees would be turning and a chill would be in the air in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. The Pentecostal Church approved our request to enter the barracks (thanks to **Ben Zinkhan**, '60, and **Greg Douglas** of the United Pentecostal Church). For months, further plans were in process as numerous friends and family stepped up and participated in the duties and execution of the ceremony. All was set, hotel reservations were made, the back-arch was opened, the grass was cut, flags were standing tall in the courtyard, silk trees were borrowed from the gym to brighten up the barracks, signs were placed telling family and friends where to stand, bulletins were distributed, roses were given to the females of the family, a paver brick donated by the Alumni Association with words of remembrance was set on the walkway between the bell tower and the front arch, two framed pictures of Jim (brought by the family) were displayed near the honorary & folded American Flag ... and dozens of people arrived in the courtyard



Approximately 14 family members traveling from 3 states either flew or drove to pay their respects. Our Chaplain **Gordon Metz**, '68, agreed to conduct the service and graciously welcomed the family, thanked them for allowing us to participate and expressed his condolences on behalf of all of AMA ... Approximately 31 people stood as the lone Color Guardsman,



Brett Thompson, '75, stood at Present Arms posture next to the American Flag, while a beautiful voice echoed about the barracks walls as **Sherri Lily** (USMC & Waynesboro resident) sang our National Anthem....**Gary Cripps** was moved and stunning as he read General Order 093017-1...boldly announcing that the ashes of cadet **Jim Hash**, '72, would be interred into this historic site for all eternity ... **Mac MaCauley** from the Staunton VFW #2216 came with a detail of four to speak briefly of Jim's 20 year service in the Army, his awards & medals, say a wonderful prayer and present a flag

to the family.

Jim's sister Alison spoke aloud saying she was greatly upset when her 13 year old brother went to AMA ... they were close and she missed him ...



yet, was even more upset when he wanted to return year after year (7 total). However, as she witnessed first-hand ... all the outpouring of love and camaraderie after Jim announced his fate ... she understood why AMA meant so much to him and said "she got it" ! ... Jim's youngest son, Ross, prepared and read a message about how often his Dad would tell stories about AMA and he had fond memories of meeting many of us either at his home, the AMA cruise or at an AMA reunion and said he wished he had his Dad's

gift of writing and storytelling (he does) ... **Bruce Hemp**, Stuart Hall alumna, AMA friend and Shenandoah Valley icon, spoke about how much she admired Jim and the many times she arranged and acted as "look-out" for he and his girlfriend as they found a hiding place on the Stuart Hall campus for a make-out session in the early 70's ... **Steve Trent**, '70, spoke about knowing Jim at AMA and spending time with him in the Army, when they both served in Panama, and called him a stand-up guy ! **Tom Del Valle**, '73, spoke on behalf of he and **Doug Pennock**, '72, (who was unable to attend as he's still dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Maria) explained to the family how important these barracks were to all who resided within the stoops and walls ... that friendships were formed here, numerous hours of story-telling took place and astronomical amounts of time was spent creating bonds of brotherhood that exist within us ... **Mark Femrite**, '71, gave a heartfelt story of a hat Jim had given him decades ago that read "Russia Sucks" ... the hat was very special to Mark, yet he desired it be returned to the family. He presented it to Ross who gladly accepted it and wore it the rest of the day. Mark, who is suffering from cancer and is under hospice care himself, drove the 2½ hours from Riner, VA, near Blacksburg, just to attend Jim's service ... afterwards, along with his sweet wife Sherri, they drove back home (thank you Mark and Sherri, God Bless you both.)



The family then took turns spreading ashes around the courtyard and

in and around his room his senior year...then allowed attendees to do the same. In single file, me and most others took a scoop of ashes and walked the grass of the courtyard praying and reminiscing about Jim while sprinkling till the cup was empty. It was emotional, respectful, gracious and heartfelt.

I read aloud *The Serviceman's Toast* authored by Jim more than a decade ago. It pays honor, thanks and tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and is often read at our reunions ... **Jorge Rovirosa**, '70, recited the *Cadet's Lament* also written by Jim and read a brief history of Taps. Immediately following, came the soft

regal sound of a horn from the first stoop southwest corner ... it was a fitting and stately rendition of Taps by **Bud Oakey**, '73, ... next (and somewhat of a surprise to some of the family) came the traditional loud "boom" of a cannon, carried out by **Lewie Kennett**, '72, from the rear of the barracks using the very same cannon used for years at AMA formations..

Gordon Metz wrapped up the service thanking friends for attending, again passing his condolences to the family and concluded inviting everyone to the gym for lunch (thanks **Ed Rogerville**, '75), donated by the AMA Alumni Foundation/Association.

During the spreading of the ashes, **Bruce Hemp** scooped thee small containers and she Lewie Kennett and Tom Del Valle drove to Stuart Hall afterwards and completed Jim's wishes ... thank you for arranging that Bruce!

It was a poignant experience for all who witnessed the Celebration of Life for Jim Hash '72. Thank you to **Ben Zinkhan**, **Don Studer**, **B.J. d'Orsay**, '70, and **Victor Gomez**, '69 ... you're always there to carry the load.

We all face our fate, yet despite Jim's condition, he kept his wit, humor and pizzazz about him till the end ... his family gained an appreciation for, and began to understand the unity of the AMA Brotherhood ... we were fortunate to meet his family, get to know his brothers **John Hash** and his wife **Helen**, and **Paul Hash**, '77, and his wife **Caroline**; his sisters **Jo Havey** and **Alison Bourdelais** and her husband **Leo**; the nieces and nephews and his three children; **Alexander**, **Catherine** and **Ross**.

We extend our hearts and welcome them to the AMA family ... we share a love for Jimmy and have memories to tell of our friend, their brother, uncle and father ... lets share them often!

Garry Granger, '71



All of the photos and videos taken of the ceremony may be seen on the AMA gallery website: galleries.AMAalumni.org



Mark and Sherry Femrite



Bruce Hemp



Jorge Rovirosa, '70, explains all the signatures on the Roller Rifles Guidon,



Tom Del Valle attempts to break into Jim's old room on first stoop while telling tall tales of life in the barracks, much to the delight of Jim's sister Alison.



Sherry Lilly sings the National Anthem as **Jorge Rovirosa**, '70, **Garry Granger**, '71, and **Garry Cripps**, '71, stand with hands over hearts.

Fallen Soldier Toast

Jim Hash '72

*For all our lost brothers and sisters at arms,
From wherever you hailed across this
nation,
To whatever foreign soil tasted your
courageous blood ... hear this:*

We honor you !

We Salute you !

*We humbly bow our heads in thanks
this and every day !*

*May your souls find peace in God's Grace ... and may your survivors
reap your share of this nation's wealth ... freedom ... and above all
... gratitude from those who have benefited from your ultimate
sacrifice.*

Here's to you !!!!

Whether igniting his face with lighter fluid, pushing the limits of cadet "behavior," Bald Rock, Old Stone Church, or excursions across the Cape May-Lewis Ferry – Jim Hash was life unscripted. Jim Hash is AMA to me. His passion for AMA, and the AMA family is what I want to celebrate with this donation.

For those that did not know Jim, let me be clear; he was not a bad cadet, but rather an adventurous one. He loved the school, the faculty, the cadets, and apparently the discipline! (I don't want to go too far here, he may not have loved the discipline, but he respected it.) AMA was tradition, order, loyalty, and friendship. He taught me to be a cadet and schooled me on the do's and don'ts my entire time at AMA. Our friendship never wavered. We would keep tabs on each other the rest of our lives.

Jim had many friends at AMA and traveled with an air of independence and utter amusement from one circle of friends to another; spontaneous interactions and always beautiful in his eyes. These friendships were as diverse as Jim; his brothers on the Rifle Team, his music cohort, roommates, and just about everyone that graced the parlor at Stuart Hall. Somewhere in there he would fit in school work and classes. Jim wasn't driven to achieve 4.0's, but he sure knew the line to stay out of Big Room.

More than anything about my friend was his passion and emotion. He lived passionately and shared his emotions freely. I admired him so much for that. He taught me how to spit shine shoes, how to march, strategies in the mess hall, not to fool with Mrs. Canivet if I knew what was good for me, and a little about Stuart Hall. I think I got most of it.

However, I feared he left us before he could teach me to enjoy that emotion and passion for our past. We talked hours and hours of our AMA experience and I would tell him, "I don't remember that," over and over - even to the point where I accused him of dreaming things up. Then, I would sit with him at an AMA reunion and the stories would get repeated and everyone would laugh and add even more color. I was lost. Where were my vivid memories? Heck, I was there!

But, my passion wasn't.

And as I hugged and cried with my friend one last time, I got my final lesson. Goodbye Hash, see you on the other side.

Gary D. Cripps
AMA '71



Reunion: a family affair

Reprinted from Summer 2010 *Recall*

By Jim Hash

As the Holiday Inn gleefully counts its profits and Augusta's museum and campus return to serenity, I find myself caught between joy and sadness. Augusta's Gathering of the Clan for 2010 has passed. As I see it, other schools have reunions while Augusta has a gathering of family whose ties are as strong as blood, whose noble heritage is held in the highest esteem. They of all races, religions and creeds, reigning from all points in and out of the United States, molding into something unique and vibrant, strong and compassionate, the AMA Cadet.

While I may be saddened that farewells have been exchanged, I am comforted in knowing that the passing of twelve months will once again bring my people, the Clan, together.

I believe there is something truly unique about Augusta that infected many of those who attended and bound us in ways I am ill equipped to define. I just know that it is there, living within us, moving us to a celebratory annual migration that few schools could achieve, never mind, sustain.

And it is even more telling when realizing that the school in question is a defunct institution whose previous attendees refuse to allow it to pass into the night to an unread history of dubious value.

There is a solidarity of voice, a body politic that demands acknowledgment and recognition for both its individual and accumulative achievements, lassoed by a brotherhood that has survived for 145 years. It is humbling. It is inspiring. It is beautiful.

I cannot gaze upon the proud fortress-like face of our school, the broken windows and decaying plaster littering the ground at her dying feet, without hearing the raucous voices of the cadets who once gave her life, who once gave her meaning and purpose.

And in her death throes, I see her smile upon her surviving children, reaching out to them, pleading with them to carry on her legacy: to stand when it's easier to sit, to build when it's easier to destroy, to unite when it's easier to walk away, to seek knowledge and bare witness to the truth.

And so as I write these words, I look forward to next April when I can once again surround myself with a family of friends, sharing and reveling in memories that only we can understand. Such a privilege it is for me to find myself amongst you.

Jim Hash, '72



Jim is pinned with an American flag by a representative of the Hope organization (via Hospice) thanking him for his service in the Army. This was during one of Garry, Tom and Doug's visits to Jim.



The Pennock family hunkered down at Doug's house. Left to right front: Shawn Pennock, Estrella Dallmayr (Trudy's mom), Trudy Pennock. Rear: Doug Pennock, Doug Pennock Jr., Clara Pennock, Sara Loinaz Pennock, Joseph (Joe Joe) Pennock.

(THIS BLOWS Continued from page 17)

storm. He told me that two of our other men lost everything. Their wooden houses disappeared. My back pain pales in importance when I get that kind of news. We have 4 new guests in the house today. Trudy got a phone call yesterday from a nephew wondering if he could rent a bedroom in our house... He and his wife and 1 1/2 year old baby live on the 7th floor of a building that lost generator power, and has no water. Oh, and his wife just gave birth to a little boy on Sunday... So we did what you do when family needs help. No rent needed.. They moved in this afternoon and we now have the entire spectrum of human age living under our roof. Baby, Jacob, 3 days old, baby Joyce 1.5 yrs. mama and papa late 20's, Trudy and Doug (over 21) Estrella (Trudy's mom) 93 and Lucy the Beagle... Family first.

September 28: We are waiting for a diesel fuel truck that was supposed to arrive this morning. Trudy has contacted 8 of our friends and acquaintances in our neighborhood and is coordinating getting everyone some fuel, that

includes my mom. Fuel prices have skyrocketed. We paid \$2.50 a gallon before Maria and this fuel will cost me \$5.40 a gallon

September 30: Promised diesel delivery never came. To my AMA brethren, I heard that Jimmy Hash's memorial service held at the courtyard in our old barracks went well. Garry Granger organized the presentation and I was told that about 25 people attended. I'm so sorry I was not able to attend. Rest in peace my friend...

October 1: The bees came looking for food. *"When I saw the bees, I realized that they probably lost their hive and queen, but more importantly, they were starving for nectar. There are no leaves left on trees and shrubs and even not a flower for the bees to collect their nectar from ... I hope enough of them survive to continue their critical job in our ecosystem. No bees, no pollination, no food for humans. We decided to do our little part to support the bees so we have set empty soda cans throughout our back yard hoping the residual sugar in the cans will help substitute nectar for these all important insects."*

October 2: Woke up to the Las Vegas shooting news. No report from Puerto Rico.

October 3: My first visit to my 250 acre nursery; it was torn to shreds. *"I got all of the farm employees together and assured them that their jobs were safe and that we were going to rebuild. I expect the cleanup to take 6 -8 weeks."*

October 4: 14 days after Maria. Son Shawn, who works for American Airlines, arrived from Miami. Other son Doug Jr. picked up a new generator that Shawn had shipped on American Airlines freight. *"Overall, folks have an amazing sense of humor and a positive outlook about the future."*

October 6: Steady buildup of military vehicles and aircraft of all types. Began running his landscaping business again.

October 9: 50% of all power poles are down, both wood and concrete. Doug encountered a Georgia state trooper directing traffic at an intersection.

October 14: Finally able to buy diesel at gas station for \$2.60 compared to delivery price of \$6.00. Been running on generator power at home since Irma, Sept 6. 39 straight days.

Read Doug's complete story online at AMAalumni.org

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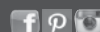
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Museum@AMAalumni.org

John Younger, '43

June 5, 2017, Fayetteville, Georgia. Mr. Younger served in the 17th Airborne Division during WWII, and afterwards as a radio operator with the Army Air Force in the Caribbean. He graduated from the University of Virginia in 1952, and after his marriage to his college sweetheart in 1953, he served as a station manager with Panagra Airlines in South America. He moved to the Atlanta area in 1959 to work with Southern Airways as a flight dispatcher. He was a lifetime member of the 17th Airborne Division Association, a lifetime member of the AACS Alumni Association, and a lifetime member of the NRA.

John attended AMA one year. He "passed away on June 5th after a long illness. He was 90 years old. He was buried with military honors in the family plot in Marion Junction, Alabama where our farm is located. He always enjoyed your [Bob Guggenheim's] e-mails. Thank you for sending them. He was a good man and will be greatly missed. We were married 63 years."

[Reported by his wife Louise through Bob Guggenheim]

Ad astra per aspera

John Cofer 'Jack' Dashiell, '44

May 31, 2017, Smithfield, VA. Jack served in the U.S. Army from 1945 to 1980, earning a Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, and two Silver Stars, while serving in postwar Germany, Korea, Vietnam, Palestine and ending his career in



John C. Dashiell
1944 Recall

Heidelberg, Germany. After retirement from the Army, Jack became a wildfowl carver. His calling card was "Ducks by Dashiell" and his meticulous work earned multiple prizes in competitions from Stone Harbor, NJ to Charleston, SC. At AMA, Jack was in Company "C" and played varsity football.

Ad astra per aspera

Robert Anderton Wantz, '46

September 21, 2017, Hagerstown, MD. Bob was an educator, teaching biology before moving into school administration. One of Bob's greatest joys besides his family was his painting, especially watercolors. Bob was fortunate enough to study under many notable watercolorists, and his award-winning paintings have been exhibited throughout the Tri-State region.



Bob Wantz
1946 Recall

Ad astra per aspera

Geoffrey G. Layng, '47

June 17, 2017, La Jolla, CA. While at AMA, Geoff finished as Battalion Adjutant, and during his years at AMA was on the rifle team, played baseball, marched in the Roller Rifles, was on the YMCA Cabinet and on the Final Ball Committee. An extensive Spotlight article featuring Geoff appears in the Summer 2006 *Bayonet*, available online at <http://amaalumni.org/bayonet/>.



Geoffrey G. Layng
1947 Recall

Ad astra per aspera

Samuel Wilson Harrell, '47

July 24, 2017, Newport News, VA. Wilson was born to Dr. Charles Lydon Harrell and Lela Wilson on October 2, 1928 in Norfolk, VA. He was raised in Norfolk and Attended Augusta Military Academy in Staunton, VA and Randolph Macon College. Wilson also served in the United States Navy where he was most proud of serving on the USS Oriskany. He was fond of his time spent in the Mediterranean. December 15, 1950 he married the love of his life, Betty Sue Barnes and remained married until her death on September 12, 2012. In the late 1960's, Wilson was introduced to the music business when his son formed a band called the Warlords. He then started his own business (Check



S. Wilson Harrell
1947 Recall

Productions, Inc.) managing numerous local bands. After retiring, Wilson decided to pursue another life-long dream which was model railroading. He started Hobby Loads where he made coal loads for HO gauge model trains and traveling to various train shows. He thoroughly enjoyed his Wednesday night train club meetings and the new found friendships.

Wilson, as he was known, spent six years at AMA advancing to the position of first lieutenant or "B" Co., when he was known for his neatness and best-groomed. Wilson also took first place as the "Best Dancer"

Ad astra per aspera

Daniel F. Yellott, '51

April 3, 2017, Riestertown, MD. Daniel was a U.S. Army veteran, and loved playing tennis and bridge. Daniel played on the AMA tennis team during the 2001 Reunion, but lost to a combined FMS/VMI alumni team. See the complete article in the Summer 2001 *Bayonet*. Daniel attended AMA four years, finishing his senior year as First Sgt. in "D" Company and marching in the Roller Rifles.



Daniel D. Yellott
1951 Recall

Ad astra per aspera

Leroy D. Bowman, Jr., '53

July 5, 2017, West Augusta, VA. Leroy was a civil engineer employed by PHR&A in Bridgewater, VA, as a project manager/inspector. He enjoyed his favorite pastime of tennis, and in later years became an avid fisherman and outdoor enthusiast. Leroy attend AMA four years, finishing as First Sgt. in "H-Q" Co., marched in the Roller Rifles and played basketball.



Leroy D. Bowman
1953 Recall

Ad astra per aspera

John T. Bell '54

June 17, 2017, Rockville, MD. John was an attorney and avid supporter of AMA. He was a second year cadet, Sergeant First Class in "B" Co., was on the Roller rifles, Honor Committee, Vice President of Second Year Men, Sergeant of Arms in AMA, YMCA. He was Co-captain of AMA swim team, Southern Interscholastic champion, swimming and diving. Had alpha rating as All American Scholastic Diver. At VMI, he was the 150 yard medley Southern



John T. Bell
1954 Recall

Conference champ. Transferred to University of Maryland winning nine ACC medals for swimming. Also lettered in football at AMA.

Ad astra per aspera

Dr. Michael ben Bottino, '54

September 29, 2014, New York City. MIT graduate degree in philosophy and Phd in geochemistry. Assistant professor of geology and geochemistry, Brooklyn College, NY. Published a number of scientific papers. Later ran the famous Broadway Charlie's until it closed. Ended his career in the manufacturing business. Survived by his wife of 28 years, Judith Nadelson. At AMA: Sergeant major; Roller Rifles; Honor Roll; Secretary of Second Year Class; YMCA Treasurer; Decorating Committee; fencing; baseball; lacrosse, Bayonet and Recall staffs; Ad Astra per Aspera.



Michael Bottino
1954 Recall

Ad astra per aspera

Vic Knicely, '55

Vicki Vaden Knicely, August 27, 2017 Churchville, VA. Vic passed away at his home surrounded by his family. Vic attended Wilson Memorial High School and Augusta Military Academy. HE was retired from Brown and Root Industrial Services as an iron worker and rigger. He served in the United States Marine Corps from September 29, 1955 until September 26, 1958. Vic was an avid handball player and for many years was a member of the Staunton YMCA, where he was inducted into the Staunton YMCA Volleyball Hall of Fame.

While attending AMA for only one year, Vicki, a day boy, participated in Varsity Football, Basketball, and Baseball.

Ad astra per aspera

John Arthur Hileman, '64

March 28, 2015, Clifton Forge, VA. John retired with over 30 years as a barber. He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, loved the Duke Blue Devils and spending time hunting and fishing. John attended AMA one year, and participated in football and baseball.



John Hileman
1964 Recall

Ad astra per aspera

Harold Clayton Sandifer, Jr., '65

August 2, 2012, Virginia Beach, VA. Sandy served in the U.S. Navy and retired from civil service. Sandy was an avid reader of history books, a civil war buff and a devoted Dallas Cowboys fan. A two year cadet, Sandy served in "B" company his senior year and played golf and shot for the rifle team.



Harold C. Sandifer, Jr.
1965 Recall

Ad astra per aspera

Robert Bruce Brothers III, '69

June 27, 2017, Glen Burnie, MD. He loved his sports and politics and was passionate about both. Bob traveled the world and was retired from the marine construction industry. Bob was a two year cadet at AMA finishing up in "A" Co., but did not graduate from AMA. He ran track, played tennis and was on the Privilege List his second year.



Bob Brothers
1969 Recall

Ad astra per aspera

William L. "Sam" Hamilton, '72

May 23, 2017, Lynchburg, VA. Sam attended AMA one year before graduating. He played basketball.



William Hamilton
1972 Recall

Ad astra per aspera

James Clark Hash, '72

July 7, 2017, Georgia. Jim was very well-liked by his classmates and fellow alumni. He was a regular contributor to *The Bayonet* via his column, "Hash Marks." He authored a touching "Serviceman's Toast" used all around the United States during significant moments when veterans are honored. We also know he was particularly proud of his son, Ross, who received the AMA Foundation's Legacy Scholarship in 2011 and 2012. Jim attended AMA seven years, participating in swimming, wrestling, Ciceronian Society, and the Literary Magazine.



Jim Hash
1972 Recall

Ad astra per aspera

Ozzie "Coyote" Ferro, '53

Sept. 20, 2017, Miami, Florida.

Ozzie attended AMA two years and graduated as sgt. First Class in Band Company. He played Tiger football. Ozzie was described as "one of the most improved cadets in the corps and one who unselfishly gives his all to help all who need help." That description carried through to Ozzie's entire life. He planned and organized an alumni cruise to Bermuda in 2007. Also in 2007, Ozzie was a major part of the AMA Care Packages sent to Marines and Sailors in Afghanistan. He received the AMA Alumni Medal in 2010. Ozzie constantly found innovative ways to raise funds in support of the museum.



Ozzie Ferro
1953 Recall

"Ozzie loved his time at AMA and the camaraderie among the brotherhood. He was instrumental in helping us organize the First AMA Cruise out of South Florida. A permanent supporter of our AMA Care Package program in support of General Larry Nicholson's Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan. He will be missed and never forgotten. Rest in Peace Ozzie Ferro!"

~ Jorge P. Rovirosa, '70



"Ozzie had a direct and highly positive impact on my Marines and Sailors in combat. Ozzie's organizational ability to galvanize the community to actively support our teams in Iraq and Afghanistan with care packages was a true force multiplier and terrific blessing for the deployed warriors. Receiving care packages from citizens back home brought smiles and a great sense of appreciation to those in harm's way....I will always be exceptionally grateful to Ozzie and his team for the support they provided..."

~ Semper Fidelis, Larry Nicholson, 75

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Jorge Rovirosa, '70, and Mike Kidd, '72, visit Ron "Scootch" Melcher, '71 at Ron's home in Cleveland, OH. Ron was First Captain at AMA and was very active with his fellow alumni and a frequent attendee at reunions. He suffered a stroke in August 2008 and has been home bound since. Classmates frequently make the effort to visit Ron whenever they are in the Cleveland area. Jorge lives in Miami, FL.



Mike Payne, '76, and his wife, Rhonda, spent two weeks this summer traveling to the National Rifle Championships in Camp Perry, Ohio. Mike had a very strong finish with a bronze in M1 Carbine, a bronze in M1 Garand, a silver in Modern Military (AR15), a bronze in Vintage Military, a silver in Springfield 1903a3, and a silver in Vintage sniper (medal not shown). Says Mike, "A marathon two weeks vacation comes to an end. Drove about 1500 miles through four states, most of which was pulling a camper. Shot eleven rifle matches in nine days at the National Championships. Got to camp. Got to see my mother, and numerous other relatives. Some of which I have not seen in a very long time. Made new friends. Saw old friends. Missed seeing some old friends and relatives (sorry). The time went way to fast. Can't wait to do it again."



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Contact Crysta at the museum as soon as possible to be a sponsor.

Two \$2,000 legacy scholarships will be awarded. Application deadline is March 1, 2018. Details and applications are available on our web site.

Complete details and costs will be announced in the Winter 2018 Bayonet in late January.